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a first electrical male plug coupled to the housing for connection with an electrical outlet supplying the main voltage;

a second electrical male plug releasably coupled to the housing for connection to an electronic device, the second electrical plug and the housing forming a rigid unit when coupled together; and

SW
a switch coupled to the housing to control the supply of voltage to the electronic circuit.

17. (Added) Device for transforming the main supply voltage into a lower voltage, comprising a first connector that can be plugged into a main supply socket, a second connector that can be plugged into a consumer and an electronic circuit for transforming the voltage which is located within a housing between the two connectors, and wherein

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the second connector (2) is arranged at the housing in a way that the second connector forms one rigid physical unit with the housing whereby the connection between the electronic circuit and second connector (2) is as short as possible and has a low electric resistance.

REMARKS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. The Examiner rejected claims 1-16 as being anticipated by Hahn et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,973,948). The Examiner also rejected claims 1-16 as being anticipated by Lee (U.S. Patent No. 5,159,545). The Applicant has amended claims 1, 2, 5, 7, 9-11, 13, and 15. Claim 17 has been added by this amendment. Reexamination and reconsideration of the claims in view of the remarks contained herein are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 is currently rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Hahn et al. Amended independent claim 1 specifies a device for transforming the main supply voltage into a lower voltage, comprising a first male connector that can be selectively plugged into a main supply socket, a second male connector that can be selectively plugged into a consumer, and an electronic circuit for transforming the voltage which is located between the two connectors, and wherein the electronic circuit forms with the second connector (2) one rigid physical unit whereby the connection between the electronic circuit and second connector (2) is as short as possible and has a low electric resistance.

Hahn et al. do not teach a device including a second male connector that can be selectively plugged into a consumer. Rather, Hahn et al. teach a power conversion apparatus that transforms a main supply voltage into a lower voltage where the DC voltage is supplied to a device 8 via electrical cable 19. *See Figure 1a, Col. 3, lines 64-65.* Hahn et al. also teach a first connector as an interchangeable plug connectable to an AC supply. Hahn et al. do not disclose or illustrate a second male connector.

Additionally, assuming that the Examiner finds a second male connector, Hahn et al. also do not teach a device where the electronic circuit forms with the second connector one rigid physical unit whereby the connection between the electronic circuit and second connector is as short as possible. Rather, Hahn et al. illustrate in Fig. 1a an electric line 19 from the apparatus to the device 8.

The configuration of the present invention is advantageous over the prior art because it is more energy efficient and can be reduced to a compact size. In the prior art devices, the introduction of an electric line between the device and the consumer leads to a significant voltage drop as a result of increased resistance in the electric line. By removing the electric line, as in the present invention, the resistance is reduced and less input power is lost. This allows for better voltage control and a simplified electronic circuit.

The Examiner also rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee. The Examiner has not provided any correlation between the Lee reference and the elements of claim 1. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner specifically point out where these claimed elements are shown in the Lee reference or withdraw the rejection. The Applicant, however, takes the liberty to discuss and distinguish the Lee reference.

Lee does not teach a second male connector that can be selectively plugged into a consumer. Rather, Lee teaches a universal adapter with one interchangeable male connector 21, 22, and 23 that plugs into different wall sockets in European and Middle East states. *See Col. 1, line 65-col. 2, lines 5.* The adapter is lacking a second male connector that is plugged into a consumer. Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate an output socket means 3 including a first socket 31 and a second socket 32 in the rear cover. The sockets 31 and 32 allow for the reception of a plug of an electric appliance. *See Col. 3, lines 41-54.*

Therefore, both Hahn et al. and Lee, taken individually, do not teach the claimed subject matter of independent claim 1. Accordingly, independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-10 are allowable.

Claim 2 depends from claim 1, and is therefore allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Amended claim 2 further specifies a device further comprising

an ON/OFF switch including one of an ON and an OFF state for supplying the line voltage to the consumer. The Examiner has not responded to the Applicant's comments in the first Office action response arguing that claim 2 is not anticipated by Hahn et al. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner provide an indication whether Applicant's comments overcame the Examiner's rejection in the first Office action.

Claim 2 has also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lee. The Examiner has not provided any correlation between the Lee reference and the elements of claim 2. The Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner specifically point out where these claimed elements are shown in the Lee reference or withdraw the rejection. The Applicant, however, takes the liberty to discuss and distinguish the Lee reference.

Lee does not teach an ON/OFF switch. Rather, Lee teaches a universal adapter including a selector switch means 6 that is rotated depending on the voltage requirements of the electric appliance to be plugged into the adapter. *See Col. 3, line 61-col. 4, line 42.* The adapter is always on when plugged into the wall socket regardless of the position of the selector switch, and the adapter supplies power to the electrical appliance when it is plugged into the adapter. The electrical appliance determines whether power is transmitted to it by plugging into the adapter. The selector switch means 6 is not a switch that controls whether or not power is transmitted to the electrical appliance and, therefore, the ON/OFF state of the electrical appliance. Therefore, Lee does not teach the subject matter of claim 2.

Claim 5 depends from claim 1, and is therefore allowable for the reasons set forth above with respect to claim 1. Amended claim 5 further specifies a device wherein the second connector can be removed from the rest of the unit and can be changed by another connector if necessary. Hahn et al. do not teach a device wherein the second connector can be removed from the rest of the unit and can be changed by another connector if necessary. Rather, Hahn et al. teach a power conversion apparatus that transforms a main supply voltage into a lower voltage using various plug configurations 13 that are compatible with a wall socket. *See Figures 1b-1e; col. 3, lines 46-65.* The second connector in the present invention is interchangeable and connects to a consumer, not the main supply. Therefore, Hahn et al. do not teach the subject matter of claim 5.

Lee also does not teach a device wherein the second connector can be removed from the rest of the unit and can be changed by another connector if necessary. Rather, Lee teaches a universal adapter with an interchangeable connector 21, 22, and 23 that plugs into different wall sockets in European and Middle East states. *See Col. 1, line 65-col. 2, lines 5.* The adapter does not include an interchangeable connector that is plugged into a consumer.

Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate an input plug means 2 including various plug configurations 21, 22, and 23 that connect to the wall socket. Figs. 1 and 2 also illustrate an output socket means 3 including a first socket 31 and a second socket 32 in the rear cover. The sockets 31 and 32 allow for the reception of a plug of an electric appliance. *See Col. 3, lines 41-54.* Therefore, Lee also does not teach the subject matter of claim 5.

Amended independent claim 11 specifies a device for converting a main supply voltage to a lower voltage comprising a housing; a first male connector coupled to the housing for connection to a main supply voltage; and a second male connector releasably coupled directly to the housing for connection to an electronic device, such that the second connector and the housing form a rigid unit when coupled together. For the reasons stated above with respect to claim 1, both Hahn et al. and Lee do not teach the subject matter of claim 11. Accordingly, independent claim 11 and dependent claims 12-14 are allowable.

Amended independent claim 15 specifies a device for transforming a main supply voltage comprising a housing including an electronic circuit for transforming the main supply voltage; a first electrical male plug coupled to the housing for connection with an electrical outlet supplying the main voltage; a second electrical male plug releasably coupled to the housing for connection to an electronic device, the second electrical plug and the housing forming a rigid unit when coupled together; and a switch coupled to the housing to control the supply of voltage to the electronic circuit. For the reasons stated above with respect to claims 1 and 2, both Hahn et al. and Lee do not teach the subject matter of claim 15. Accordingly, independent claim 15 and dependent claim 16 are allowable.

New claim 17 generally recites, among other things, a device for transforming the main supply voltage into a lower voltage, comprising a first connector that can be plugged into a main supply socket, a second connector that can be plugged into a consumer and an electronic circuit for transforming the voltage which is located within a housing between the two connectors, and wherein the second connector (2) is arranged at the housing in a way that the second connector forms one rigid physical unit with the housing whereby the connection between the electronic circuit and second connector (2) is as short as possible and has a low electric resistance. As discussed above with respect to claim 1, the prior art does not teach a second connector arranged at the housing in a way that the second connector forms one rigid physical unit with the housing. Accordingly, claim 17 is allowable.

CONCLUSION

Accordingly, entry of the amendments and allowance of claims 1-17 are respectfully requested. Applicant is providing a marked-up version of the claims at the end of this amendment. The undersigned is available for a telephone consultation at any time.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "T. A. Miller".

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**AMENDED CLAIMS
MARKED-UP VERSION**

1. (Thrice Amended) Device for transforming the main supply voltage into a lower voltage, comprising a first male connector that can be selectively plugged into a main supply socket, a second male connector that can be selectively plugged into a consumer, and an electronic circuit for transforming the voltage which is located between the two connectors, and wherein

the electronic circuit forms with the second connector (2) one rigid physical unit whereby the connection between the electronic circuit and second connector (2) is as short as possible and has a low electric resistance.

2. (Twice Amended) Device according to claim 1, and further comprising an ON/OFF switch (5) including one of an ON and an OFF state for [switching] supplying the line voltage to the consumer.

5. (Twice Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein the second connector (2) can be removed from the rest of the unit [easily] and can be changed by another connector if necessary.

7. (Amended) Device according to claim 6, [characterized in that this] wherein the electric line has a third connector, that can be removed from the unit.

9. (Twice Amended) Device according to claim 1, wherein one of the unit [and/or] and the consumer are provided with elements that ensure a secure fastening of the unit at the consumer.

10. (Amended) Device according to claim 9, [characterized in that] wherein the connector [pin(s)] elements of the second connector and the respective [socket(s)] elements in the consumer are constructed for correctly fastening the unit.

11. (Amended) A device for converting a main supply voltage to a lower voltage comprising:
a housing;

a first male connector coupled to the housing for connection to a main supply voltage;
and

a second male connector releasably coupled directly to the housing for connection to an electronic device, such that the second connector and the housing form a rigid unit when coupled together.

13. (Amended) A device as claimed in claim 11, further comprising a switch coupled to the housing for controlling the main supply voltage to the electronic [device] circuit.

15. (Amended) A device for transforming a main supply voltage comprising:
a housing[,] including an electronic circuit for transforming the main supply voltage;
a first electrical male plug coupled to the housing for connection with an electrical outlet supplying the main voltage;

a second electrical male plug releasably coupled to the housing for connection to an electronic device, the second electrical plug and the housing forming a rigid unit when coupled together; and

a switch coupled to the housing to control the supply of voltage to the electronic [device] circuit.